

NATIONAL news

donation and life support. The measure also allows for private visits in nursing homes and requires employers to allow emergency phone calls from a legally designated person.

Additionally, the bill mandates that a committee in the Legislature further studies the matter and issues a report later this year. The measure now is in the hands of Gov. John G. Rowland, who has indicated he will sign it.

"This legislation represents an important first step in our effort to gain the freedom to marry here in Connecticut," said Anne Stanback, president of Love Makes a Family, a coalition working to expand the state's marriage laws to include same-sex couples. "In the short term the bill addresses a handful of very real issues faced by same-sex couples, but it also requires that the general assembly continue to wrestle with the broader issues of marriage and civil unions over the next year."

VIRGINIA

An Arlington County Circuit Court judge wasted no time May 3 in rejecting an attempt by the Virginia attorney general's office to end a lawsuit filed by a lesbian mother who wants to adopt a foster child.

Arlington resident Linda Kaufman is suing the state for refusing to allow her to adopt a District of Columbia foster child because she is a lesbian. Judge Joanne Alper rejected Virginia's argument that the case should be dismissed because she has not formally submitted an application to adopt a child.

Kaufman was prevented from submitting an application when a Washington, D.C., child welfare agency said it could not initiate a child placement because the Virginia Social Services Department already had stated it would deny her application. Alper called the situation created by Virginia a "Catch-22" and ruled that the case can move forward.

"Today is a great day for justice, because the court saw right through the smoke screen Virginia sent up to hide its anti-gay discrimination," said Lambda Legal staff attorney Greg Nevins, who argued the case. "Everybody knows that Linda Kaufman is a great mother and a wonderful adoptive parent, but no child can be placed with her for adoption until Virginia agrees that it will consider the adoption based on what's in the best interest of the child rather than outdated stereotypes."

Kaufman stated: "I am thrilled with the judge's decision that my case will move forward. I can only bring a child into my home if there is a real possibility Virginia will approve the adoption, and today we're a step closer to that happening."

Kaufman is an ordained Episcopal priest and a dedicated social services professional in Washington, D.C. In 1992, she adopted her son from the D.C. foster care system, and he has thrived under her care. Since 1999, she has been trying to adopt one or more foster children from Washington, D.C.

COLORADO

Leaders in the field of sexual minority health are making plans to converge on Boulder from Aug. 21 to 25 for what is expected to be their largest summit and strategy session in more than a decade. Activists, medical professionals, HIV prevention leaders and service providers will convene in response to a range of nationwide challenges: a dramatic falloff of funding for nonprofits and queer health clinics in the aftermath of Sept. 11, escalating controversies surrounding appropriate responses to trans and intersex health concerns, and public health authorities' accusations of community irresponsibility in the face of rising gay male rates of sexually transmitted infections.

"We are coming together at a very critical

time for [sexual minority] communities throughout the nation," summit organizer Eric Rofes declared. "In Boulder, we intend to chart exciting new directions for the movement, strategize about new ways to assist our communities as they navigate the complex and fragile health care systems of our nation and ignite new initiatives as we catapult our movement forward."

Cheryl Pearson-Fields of the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer in Washington, D.C., added: "We'll be doing a lot of important, strategic work at Boulder, but we will also be modeling ways to get the job done while taking



Linda Kaufman, an ordained Episcopal priest and a dedicated social services professional, can't adopt a D.C. foster child because she is a lesbian

care of ourselves. The program includes important meetings on issues ranging from cancer and domestic violence to HIV/AIDS and mental health. But we also have almost two dozen workshops on holistic and alternative health, self-care and complementary therapies. This isn't your ordinary conference—it's going to be a time of re-energizing ourselves, as individuals, communities and movements."

SOUTH DAKOTA

As a SiTanka Huron University student faces several counts of having sex without disclosing he has HIV—and with an Aberdeen man appearing in court May 3 facing similar charges—the American Civil Liberties Union said state officials and the public should proceed with concern, calm and caution.

"Intentionally spreading HIV by having unprotected sex without disclosing HIV status is reprehensible," said Jennifer Ring, ACLU of the Dakotas executive director, and Matt Coles, ACLU AIDS Project director, in a joint statement. "But...the way to fight the spread of AIDS is not to throw out the Constitution and start a witch hunt."

The case is the first use of a law passed in 2000 to make a crime of knowingly spreading the virus, the *Argus Leader* reported. Nikko Briteramos, 18, faces three counts, each carrying a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$15,000 fine.

"Public officials should encourage people who have any cause for concern to get tested and assure them that their right to privacy will be respected," Ring and Coles said. "No criminal prosecution, no matter how vigorous, will reverse an HIV infection." □

Compiled by News Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.

ATTACK OF THE 50% off SALE!

Ends May 31st
excludes corsets

One Year Anniversary Sale!

Bad Attitude Boutique
36 SW. 3rd Ave
Portland, OR.
503-223-8833
BadAttitude.com

RE/MAX SIGNATURE PROPERTIES!

Turn key-ready 2 bedroom bungalow w/ fresh interior paint, fir floors under berber, 2yo gas furnace and central air. All kitchen appliances included. 2 bonus rooms plus plumbed and ready for finishing in dry basement. Oversized garage w/ opener, cute fenced backyard w/ ivy-covered patio. \$123,000

SOLD

Tina Schafer, GRI, ABR
Multi-Million Dollar Producer

RE/MAX Signature Properties
282-4000 x 122
e-mail: tinas@remax.net

Worried About Your Rights?

When it comes to your estate, as a Gay or Lesbian, you need all the protection you can get.

You Should Be.

Gay and Lesbian couples need to take extra precautions when creating an estate plan. Why? Because the government doesn't provide equal rights to same sex couples, and it's essential that you're prepared for the legal battle that may ensue when you or your partner die.

Rely on Someone Who Know Your Rights

Richard Schneider, a local attorney with 20 years of experience, is an excellent resource. He's well versed in the legal dilemmas that the GLBT community faces and can help you arm yourself against intervention by the courts. He'll be happy to provide you with a free one-hour consultation, advising you and our partner of your rights and show you the best way to protect them.

Prepare for Tomorrow by Planning Today

Call us today for a FREE report entitled "Gay and Lesbian Couples Face Special Challenges in Estate Planning."

LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD B. SCHNEIDER, LLC
2455 NW Marshall Street, Suite 11
Portland, Oregon 97210

For a FREE Consultation Call Richard Schneider at **(503) 241-1215** Today!
Visit our website at **www.rbllc.com**